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High technology
at the head end

RAILWAY AGE

...for the new age of railways

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Transit's trauma

The Reagan budget hits
where it hurts most

RAILWAY AGE

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May 1985

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Despite severely reduced business levels, the diesel-electric builders have invested heavily in a new generation of locomotives that could dramatically change the power picture.

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Already accepted in Europe, ac traction may soon find applications in North America, in both passenger and freight railroading. Tests are already under way.



With the lower Manhattan skyline in the background, an Independent Line "F" train is photographed in Brooklyn by *Railway Age* Photo Editor Roy H. Blanchard. Page 58.



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Market Outlook

Equipment

Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority: General Electric has awarded contracts exceeding \$1.3 million to Stone Nycal Corp. for overhauling 75 car sets of Stone Safety air conditioning systems as well as air compressors, couplers, yokes, and draft gear arrangements, as part of an MBTA rehabilitation program.

- A \$2.5 million contract has been awarded to Buckeye Steel Castings for 108 GSI-designed trucks for 54 cars that Can-Car Rail is building for MBTA.

Santa Fe: Ordered LOCOTROL II remote locomotive control systems valued at \$2.29 million from the Harris Controls and Composition Division of Harris Corp. Advanced versions of the original LOCOTROL, which has been in use for 20 years, the new systems will be installed on locomotives being rebuilt at Cleburne, Tex., and destined for unit-train service. About 50 ATSF locomotives are equipped with the Harris systems.

Trailer Train: Awarded a contract to Bethlehem Steel's Freight Car Division for modification of 250 low-level, 89-foot flat-cars into auto-hauling cars.

Union Pacific System: Ordered 60 C36-7, 3,750-hp diesel-electric units from General Electric at a cost of \$65.1 million. Delivery is to begin in this year's fourth quarter.

- UP has placed an order with Thrall Car for 426 fully enclosed tri-level and bi-level autoracks at a cost of \$13.4 million. With completion of delivery, UP System's rack fleet will number 5,700 cars.

Facilities

Zambia: Will apply a \$20-million International Development Association credit toward an \$83.1-million railway modernization program that calls for track rehabilitation or replacement, provision of a new radio signaling and telecommunications system, and overhaul of the equipment fleet.

Revenue freight carloadings

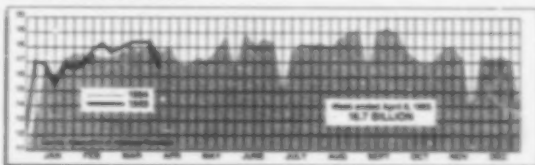
Commodity	Apr. 6 week	Mar. 3 week	Mar. 23 week	Mar. 18 week
Grain	20,275	22,350	23,173	24,832
Other farm products	2,883	3,189	3,345	3,834
Metallic ores	13,880	13,908	14,880	11,833
Coal	107,403	119,365	123,229	118,652
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	12,741	11,763	11,949	10,586
Nonmetallic minerals	9,187	11,580	11,901	11,705
Grain mill products	9,203	10,931	10,374	10,665
Food and kindred products	10,823	11,384	10,942	11,639
Primary forest products	11,688	12,532	12,611	12,812
Lumber and wood products except furniture	6,476	7,081	6,932	7,147
Pulp, paper and allied products	13,954	14,927	14,448	14,631
Chemicals and allied products	24,753	27,429	27,344	28,183
Petroleum products	4,142	4,878	4,868	4,877
Stone, clay and glass products	10,690	11,761	11,388	11,237
Coke	5,294	5,218	4,841	5,310
Metals and products	8,988	9,822	9,438	9,664
Motor vehicles and equipment	19,333	22,636	22,209	27,842
Waste and scrap materials	8,540	9,873	10,148	10,536
Forwarder and shipper assn. traffic	6,280	6,953	6,785	6,916
All other carloads	57,531	58,640	58,726	59,039
LCL traffic	131	147	130	158
Total Cars Loaded	384,888	397,821	398,583	398,888
% change from previous year	(0.6)	(4.6)	(1.1)	(2.8)
Estimated revenue ton-miles (billions)	1985	1984	% change	
14 weeks	237.0	249.0	(4.8)	

Piggyback loadings

	Mar. 30 week	Mar. 23 week	Mar. 18 week	Mar. 9 week
Trailers/containers	90,197	87,343	88,394	88,926
Cumulative total, 13 weeks	1,085,268			% change from 1984 (4.2)
Trailers/containers				

Rail freight traffic trends

Billion ton miles (Estimated)



Source: Association of American Railroads

Freight cars

	DELIVERED			ORDERED			ON ORDER AND UNDELIVERED		
	March 1985	3 months 1985	1984	March 1985	3 months 1985	1984	April 1, 1985	Average Backlog 1985	1984
Built new by carbuilders	868	2,585	1,837	1,553	2,606	5,472	4,559	4,169	6,375
Built new in RR shops	0	336	0	0	0	0	70	70	0
Built new—total	868	2,921	1,837	1,553	2,606	5,472	4,629	4,239	6,375
Rebuilt	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	868	2,921	1,837	1,553	2,606	5,472	4,629	4,239	6,375
Locomotives (new and rebuilt)	48	97	76	N/A	N/A	N/A	273	254	80

Source: Transportation Div., AAR and American Railway Car Institute